



St. Mary Catholic Church ~ St. Joseph Catholic Mission

April 2026



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
 Archbishop Joe S. Vasquez
 Fr. Edward C. Kucera, Jr. ~ Pastor
 Fr. Paul Lockey - Visiting Priest
 Deacon Anthony Olivieri
 Deacon Frank Ashley
 Deacon David G. Garvis



Parish Office
 PO Box 388, Plantersville, TX 77363
 936-894-2223
 Parish Fax - 936-894-3613
 Email: info@stmaryandjoseph.org
 Website: smsj.org
 Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Friday: 8:00 am - 12 pm
 Lunch: Closed from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

St. Mary - Plantersville

Monday through Thursday & First Friday - 9:00 a.m.

Saturday - 5:00 p.m. &

Sunday - 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 a.m.

St. Joseph - Stoneham

Sunday—7:30 a.m.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

1st & 3rd Wednesday: 10 a.m.-12 p.m. & 5-6 p.m.
(Subject to change)

Or by Appointment - Please Call the Office

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Please call the parish office for information concerning the Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony or Anointing of the Sick.

Church Organizations & Ministries at St. Mary's & St. Joseph's

Parish Administrator

Bob Daves 832.205.2791

AA

Deb Waters 281.701.4177

ACTS Retreat

Diane Pasket 936.232.0864

Adult Bible Study & Spiritual Enrichment

Suiki Boardman 713.254.6943

Adult Confirmation

Sharon Skeans 281.467.0217

Annulments

Cindy Olivieri 713.206.0621

Art & Environment...etc.

Liz Torres 936.894.2223

Baptism Preparation for Infants to 6

Email: baptism@stmaryandjoseph.org

CCE / RE

Nicci Potter 936.894.2223

Email: cce@stmaryandjoseph.org

Church Greeters

Call Parish Office 936.894.2223

Gabriel Project

Amy Schnell 904.556.3486

GriefShare

Pam Milek 281.686.7552

Guardian Angels Senior Group

Teresa Swonke 979.450.2907

Homebound Ministry

Bobby Williams 832.540.2250

Lectors

Richard Prokop 936.827.1125

Little Lambs Playgroup

Wanda O'Brien 936.597.6328

Marriage Preparation

Dcn. Anthony Olivieri 936.522.8146

Cindy Olivieri 713.206.0621

Music Coordinator

Meara O'Neill 936.894.2223

OCIA / Adult Faith Formation

Thomas Johnson 936.697.2821

Pro-Life Outreach

Nance Shaw 936.894.2512

Quinceanera Coordinator:

Martha Lucas 512.608.3519

Rummage Sale Coordinator

Lauren Twining 281.813.5355

St. Joseph - Altar Society

Marcy Pavlock 936.661.6662

St. Joseph - Cemetery

Justin Mock 979.777.4993

St. Joseph - Men's Club

Donovan Pavlock 936.900.4903

St. Mary - Altar Servers

Steve Twining 936.306.9188

St. Mary - Altar Society

Betty Hollas 713.419.6106

St. Mary - Cemetery

Rita Swonke 713.557.5817

St. Mary - Corner Shoppe

Lora Cox 254.216.3316

St. Mary - Extraordinary Ministers -

Holy Communion & Sacristans

Kerry Masson 713.824.8599

St. Mary - Men's Club

Shanon Salsbury 936.444.5988

Stitchin' Sisters

Juli Murphy 936.206.0677

St. Vincent de Paul (for help, 936.894.2362)

Everette Johnson 713.204.3016

Wedding Coordinator:

Martha Lucas 512.608.3519

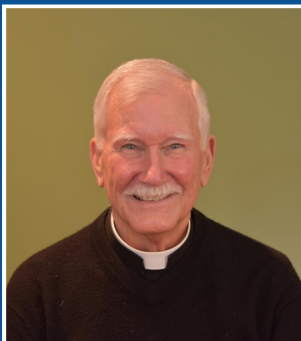
Young Catholic Married Couples (YCMC)

Michael Tann 346.373.0369

Youth Confirmation

Email: youthconfirmation@stmaryandjoseph.org

If you would like to become a member of our parish, please pick up a registration form in back of the church or complete online at www.smsj.org.



One of the indications of getting older is that one begins to reminisce about events in life that were significant and life changing. I'm getting old, I guess, 'cause as April begins I'm reminiscing about my ordination to the Priesthood on April 14, 1973...yep '73! If my math is correct that's 53 years ago. Yikes!!

The journey to my ordination to Priesthood for the Diocese of Galveston-Houston actually begins my first year of Theology, 1970. I made the decision to transfer from the Diocese of Corpus Christi to Galveston-Houston. Several factors entered into that decision: My parents were planning to retire to the farm outside of Brenham. I would be closer to them in this area. I also felt very comfortable with and welcomed by the fraternity of priests of the Diocese. My classmates were from the Diocese and the Diocese of Austin. I was the only one from Corpus Christi. The Diocese of Galveston-Houston was very open to receive me into the Diocese with the consent of the Diocese of Corpus Christi. After quite a bit of haggling (some of it about money), I was permitted to be released by the Diocese of Corpus Christi and accepted into the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. This was done before the first step to Priesthood, Tonsure (look it up). With Tonsure, one is officially enrolled into the list of clerics of a diocese in Rome. That's why it was important to transfer dioceses before Tonsure. I've never regretted the decision.

My diaconate year (1972) was spent in the parish of St. Ambrose in northwest Houston. I remember receiving the letter from Bishop Morkovsky informing my class that no ordinations would be celebrated till April 15th• I look on the calendar and April 15th was a Sunday. I wrote asking if he would consider celebrating my ordination on Saturday, April 14th• Remarkably, he agreed! (I should have looked closer. It was the Saturday before Palm Sunday.) My Dad was insistent that my ordination Mass count for the Sunday. Again, Bishop Morkovsky agreed...a miracle! Therefore, the Gospel at my ordination was the Passion...had my fingers crossed it wasn't a sign of things to come.

In those days, bishops decided it might be helpful in fostering vocations to celebrate Priesthood ordinations in the ordinandi's (one to be ordained) home parish. So, my ordination took place in my home parish of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Corpus Christi. Needless-to-say, the bishop of Corpus Christi did not attend. I didn't realize at the time the position I had put Bishop Morkovsky coming to the diocese I left. But, he seemed to feel right at home among all my Czeck relatives and family friends.

The church was packed. Msgr. Frank Kaspar, the pastor who baptized me, gave me my First Communion and was there at my Confirmation was present and a celebrant at my ordination. My classmates: John Weyer, Tim Bucek, Dennis Peterson, Ralph Schmidt and Drew Wood were also present and part of the ceremony. I was the first in the class to be ordained. I wanted to get it over with....lol. One of my cousins was the photographer, the reason the pictures aren't great. My Dad wasn't going to hire a photographer...not for an ordination...maybe for a wedding.

My mother pleaded with me to get a decent haircut. The style then was long, just over the ear. John Weyer's mother was begging him to do the same. Neither of us listened to our mothers. Do I wish now I had! I cringe to think that my ordination picture is hanging in the seminary for the class of '73.

The ceremony was understandably long. I remember parts of it, but mostly it's a blur. My father's mother, my Grandmother, was there at the age of 95, walking in. I think she was the proudest there. My relatives alone filled up probably $\frac{3}{4}$ of the church. It was the social event of the Czech community. I should have sold invitations. I'm not sure but I think something like 450-500 invitations went out. The fact was that I was the first Czech to be ordained from the parish in all its history. There were some (in my family) who couldn't believe it was 'that' Czech being ordained...lol.

I remember it was a cloudy, windy day, not that unusual for Corpus Christi. The reception was held at the Czech hall down the road, Moravian Hall. (All Czech special events were held there). The meal was provided by the men of the parish, cooked on site. My plethora of cousins were in charge of all the other details: the reception book, serving, decorations, etc. My Dad hired his favorite band, the Majek's, one of whose players was in my class at our parish school.

One incident I remember and always relate has to do with two of my father's elderly cousins coming from out of town. They were driven to the reception and were getting out of the car at the front door where all were gathering, waiting for me, I think. When Ms. J got out of the car, her wig blew off 'cause the wind was blowing so strong. (Fr) Tim had to run and finally retrieved it. Ms. J was laughing at Tim running after the wig. We all were actually crying, we were laughing so hard. It proved a great way to start a really festive and fun afternoon and evening of celebrating.

Bishop Morkovsky gave a very heart-warming talk in Czech and in English. My Grandmother was in hog-heaven. I can't remember but I think the Bishop may have stayed for the Grand March that began the dance. I do know my sister was my partner. I've never danced so much in my life! I'm not that good a dancer and all that dancing didn't improve it.

The next morning was my First Mass at my parish church. Msgr. Kaspar was there which made me very pleased. Soon-to-be Frs. John Weyer way Deacon, Tim Bucek, the sub-Deacon, Ralph Schmidt, Dennis Peterson and Drew Wood, masters of ceremony. Joh gave the homily. I was too nervous. Again, the church was packed. (Might also have been a reason I transferred dioceses...didn't want a church full of relatives every Sunday.)

I was so glad I was able to be the first to be ordained. I was able to enjoy the others' ordinations. John, Dennis and Drew were ordained in their home parishes. Ralph was ordained in his home parish in Belgium, Wisconsin. Sad to say, all have gone to their reward for faithful service to the Church.

I have been blessed throughout all the years of my Priesthood. Blessed with good pastors as an assistant, good parishes, wonderful parishioners. I find it hard to believe that I've spent half of my priesthood here at Sts. Mary and Joseph. Who would have thought! It's been a fantastic ride that I hope isn't over any time soon. Ya'll make each day and great day to wake up, each year another year to be thankful for April 14th 1973.

Congratulations Father Ed!!

Congratulations on **53 years** of Priesthood; you have been and continue to be a blessing to so many people. We pray that God continues to bless you as you shepherd your flock.

St. Mary/Plantersville & St. Joseph/Stoneham



2026 TRIDUUM SCHEDULE:

All St. Mary's Masses – Pavilion

Holy Thursday, April 2

Mass of the Lord's Supper: St. Mary – 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 3

Celebration of the Lord's Passion:

St. Mary – 3:00 pm

Stations of the Cross: St. Joseph – 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday, April 4

Easter Vigil: St. Mary – 8:00 pm

-Reception in SM Hall following Mass honoring the newly received-

Easter Sunday, April 5

Mass Times:

St. Mary (pavilion)

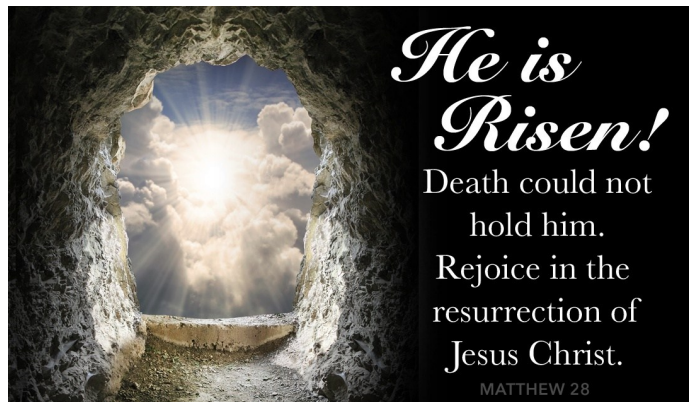
6:30 am (Sunrise)

9:00 am

11:00 am

St. Joseph (in church)

7:30 am



Please keep our sick in your prayers:

Carol Anderson, MaryAnn Benitz, Bernie & JoAnn Borski, Courtney Boyett, Delores Boyett, Blanca Bradley, James & Meredith Buck, Charlie Burzinski, Jr., Francis "Frank" Bushey, Gary Carmouche, Carol Clary, Florence Corolla, Jay Creighton, John Duffy, Melissa Duffy, Don Faughn, Jeff Faughn, Steve Floyd, Beckham Fox, Liliana Fredo, Carol Fryman, Jeffery Gehring, Melody Gensheimer, Holly Gilstrap, Russell Grasshoff, Frances Griffith, Cassy Guillory, Jamie Hafla, Hudson Hall, John Hannemann, , Briana Herzog Burns, Timothy & Catherine Hoffart, Irene Hoffpaur, Barbara Hyde, Michele Imhoff, Alice Johnston, Will Kaus, Jason Keasling, Hiltraud "Hillie" Keller, Deborah Kennamore, Ruth Kolek, Jimmy Kubeczka, Shirley Kuzma, Grant Larson, Jack Letobitz, Chris Lobue, Kayla Reneé Luck, Laveta Malek, Fritz Manuel, Amanda Martinez, Natalie Mattern, Frankie McIntosh, Kerri McLeod, Mike Meador & Janie Houser Meador, Linda Merdian, Hailey Minor, Chad Mock, John M. Mock, Tammy Rabun, CeCe Ray, James Riley, Josephine Shannon, David Shrader, John Simmons, Fred Smith, James & Ann Smith, Brian Stehling, Marie Staples, Craig Strickler, Daniela Syzdek, Dr. Linda Ann Walker, Clara Walkoviak, Jessica Weisenbach, Charles & Mary Yorek, Ann Young



We need your help to clean up our prayer list. Please get in touch with the office if there is anyone we can remove from

THE INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL.

Pope's Intention: For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.



CONFESSIONS

Confessions will be heard on

Wednesday, April 1

10:00am-noon & 5:00-6:00pm

(Subject to change)

Otherwise, if available, Fr. Ed would be happy to hear confessions.

Call the office for an appointment at 936-894-2223.



Anointing Mass for the Sick and Elderly
Wednesday, April 1

No First Friday Mass
(Good Friday 3pm service)

SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

April 3: Holy Land Collection (Good Friday)

April 5: Easter Gift

April 26: Home Missions Collection



St. Mary Mass Intentions for April 2026

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by	
Wed., Apr. 1	9:00am	Ralph Hoffart	---	
Thur., Apr. 2	7:00pm	David A. Pavlock	---	
Fri., Apr. 3	3:00pm	No Mass Intention	---	
Sat., Apr. 4	8:00pm	Emanuel Wagner	Family	
Sun., Apr. 5	6:30am	Dorothy Vatalero	John & Mary Yurkanin	
	9:00am	Alma Armitage	Willie Mae Bohack	
		Daniel Harris	---	
	11:00am	Neil Rosenberg & Manuel Bustillo	Mildred Rosenberg	
Mon., Apr. 6	9:00am	No Mass	---	
Tue., Apr. 7	9:00am	June & Roland Voigt	---	
Wed., Apr. 8	9:00am	Bill Malek	Laveta Malek	
Thur., Apr. 9	9:00am	Cherry Smock	Family	
Fri., Apr. 10		No Mass	---	
Sat., Apr. 11	5:00pm	Annie Demny	Denise Durel	
		Roy Champagne	Marian Champagne	
		Frank & Dolores Hoffart	Hoffart Family	
Sun., Apr. 12	7:00am	For the People	---	
	8:30am	Jacob L. Diehl	Beatrice Diehl	
	10:00am	Gregory Walsh & James Hummer	Mike & Ruth Hummer	
		Terry M. Rhodes	Jeanette Rhodes	
	11:30am	Thomas & Frances Kowis 65th Wedding Anniversary	---	
Mon., Apr. 13	9:00am	Bernice Ubnoski	Pat Feldman	
Tue., Apr. 14	9:00am	Thomas "Sport" Diehl, Jr.	---	
Wed., Apr. 15	9:00am	Lavail Lott	Family	
Thur., Apr. 16	9:00am	Joe Barbossa	---	
Sat., Apr. 18	5:00pm	William Bailey	Catherine Rudel & Mildred Rosenberg	
		Charles Mock	Aleen Mock	
Sun., Apr. 19	7:00am	Jean Rousseau	Ferris Fain	
		Lisa Seigle	Family	
		8:30am	For the People	---
		10:00am	Foster & Janie Wade	Sandy & Steve Thompson
	11:30am	Bob Riedle	Mary & Susan Riedle	
Mon., Apr. 20	9:00am	Bernard Higgins	---	
Tues, Apr. 21	9:00am	Theresa Smith	Leonard Busa	
Wed., Apr. 22	9:00am	Charles & Dorothy Smith	Robert & Patricia Kimich	
Thur., Apr. 23	9:00am	Thomas & James Stapanski	Cliff & Patsy Conrey	
		& Sherry Rice		
Sat., Apr. 25	5:00pm	Patti Lott Stafford	Tootsie Mock	
		Frank Mock	Linette Mock	
Sun., Apr. 26	7:00am	William Parsons	---	
	8:30am	(Our newly confirmed)	St Mary Parish	
	10:00am	Agnes, Harold & Freddie Pavlock	Sandy & Steve Thompson	
	11:30am	For the People	---	
Mon., Apr. 27	9:00am	Joe Lynch	---	
		Makenzie Phillips	---	
Tue., Apr. 28	9:00am	George, Billy & Denise Lundquist	---	
Wed., Apr. 29	9:00am	Amber Hoffart	---	
Thur., Apr. 30	9:00am	Sylvester Pavlock, Jr. & Kira Kimich	Robert & Patricia Kimich	

St. Joseph Mass Intentions April 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Intentions</u>	<u>Requested by</u>
Sun., Apr. 5	7:30am	Jeff Wetuski JB Langley	Wetuski Family Imhoff Family
Sun., Apr. 12	7:30am	Ginny Lampasas Grady M. Drawdy III	Tom & Kaky Wetuski Sandra D. Rios
Sun., Apr. 19	7:30am	Father William Kelly Frank Imhoff	The Wetuski Family Imhoff Family
Sun., Apr. 26	7:30am	Billy & Yvonne Wirzberg Wm Lebeck Rose Calhoun	Theresa Rausheck Janice Hoffart Brenda & Margaret Wishkoski

DSF

You are invited to renew your support today and help ensure the Church remains a beacon of unity, faith, and love for all who turn to it.

Thank you for your faith, your love of the Church, and your generous support.

St. Mary's approved goal for 2026 is \$120,937.50.

St. Joseph's approved goal for 2026 is \$13,760.00.



2026 St. Mary Men's Club Scholarship

Scholarship applications for 2026 are now available in the parish office (see Karen Molina). The applicant must be an active member of the parish of St. Mary Plantersville Catholic Church or St. Joseph Stoneham Catholic Mission for a minimum of one full year and must also be a graduating high school senior.

This scholarship is awarded by the St. Mary Men's Club and is a **two year scholarship**. Students must attend a state-accredited trade school, college or university full time (12+ hours per semester). The scholarship is to be used for tuition, school fees, required class books and living expenses directly related to school.

Grades are not the major criteria in the award of this scholarship. Emphasis is placed on work ethic, attitude, and service. Participation in parish activities (bazaar, rummage sale, etc.) counts heavily.

Completed applications are to be submitted to Karen Molina in the parish office by **Wednesday April 22, 2026**, no later than 4:00pm.

Do not wait until the last minute!

2026 ST. JOSEPH'S ANNUAL BAZAAR

Sunday, May 24

The 2026 Bazaar Auction will include both a Silent and a Live Auction. Our Pre-Auction focus this year continues to be on the extremely generous donations from all our parishioners, both St. Joseph's and St. Mary's. Here are a wide variety of potential donation ideas from our parishioners, their friends, neighbors, and relatives for our Live and Silent Auctions:

- ◆ Cash for Purchases of Power Equipment, Tools, and Purchases of Weekend Getaways
- ◆ Homemade Food Items
 - ◆ Jellies, Jams, Cakes, Pies, Grape Juice, Cookies, Brittle, Rolls, All Canned Vegetables and Salsa, etc.
- ◆ Homemade Furniture
- ◆ Homemade Quilts, Afghans, and Wall Hangings
- ◆ Donated Weekend Getaways
- ◆ Donated Weekend Hotel Stays
- ◆ Group Tours
- ◆ Winery Group Events
- ◆ Sports Event Tickets (Texans, Astros, Rockets, Gamblers, etc.)
- ◆ Time Share Donations
- ◆ Fishing Trips and Hunting Events
- ◆ Group Meal Events
- ◆ Weekend Getaways Using Family or Friends' 2nd Homes
- ◆ Group Spa Gift Certificates
- ◆ Sports Teams Autographed Equipment
- ◆ Travel Points for Airline Tickets
- ◆ Jewelry Items

No Item is Too Large or Too Small for Our Auction! Donation Documentation Forms will be available in the Church Hall. If you Cannot Donate an Item, Please Consider CASH Donations for the Purchase of Auction Items.

Please see Theresa Rausheck, Mike Wetuski , or Bo Imhoff with questions or suggestions.

Thank You!

You can find the bulletin on our website www.smsj.org/bulletins

St. Joseph's Memorial Day Weekend Bazaar

It's that time of year again and I know we are all looking forward to St. Joseph's annual Bazaar on Sunday May 24th. It's a time we can all come together and celebrate the blessings God has sent our way.

I encourage you to come out on May 24th and enjoy a fantastic lunch with beef & pork with all the trimmings beginning at 11:00 am. There will also be a live auction beginning at 1:00 pm, a silent auction, live music and entertainment throughout the day along with activities, and games. There are booths for children and adults to round out this fun filled, enjoyable event.

COME ON OUT, enjoy yourself while celebrating our Veterans on this Memorial Day weekend who made our country great. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Flocknote



Stay up to date!

Sign up today!

We send out Flocknotes each week to let you know what is coming up in the next week. We also send out changes to the calendar, information about upcoming funerals, death notices, requests for volunteers, etc. Please consider signing up at smsjcc.flocknote.com or go to smsj.org and click on Flocknote. All that is needed to sign up is your name, your email, and your cell phone number.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS, LENT 2026

As a Community, we will be praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent **each Friday at 7:00 pm and each Wednesday after 9:00 am Mass**. Stations on Wednesdays will be guided by Parish Members, and on Fridays by the groups indicated below. All Stations of the Cross will be at St. Mary Church with one exception, April 3rd, Good Friday. These Stations will be at St. Joseph, at 7:00 pm.

Station Guides will be provided for use in Church on Friday evenings and Wednesday mornings. Use your own Station Guides when you, your families and groups pray together in Church and at home. Our Corner Shoppe and shops in other parishes can show you a choice of Station Guides.

Every life has suffering, temptation, burial and resurrection. We pray and meditate at each Station, that Jesus may guide us to live our lives in His Service as He wills.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>
April 3	7pm	St. Joseph's Catholic Church @ SJ

St. Mary's Catholic Church Men's Club

25th Annual Golf Benefit

Walden Golf Club

Monday April 27, 2026

Registration: 8:30 -9:45 AM – Shotgun Tee-off at 10:00 AM *Format: Scramble*


Entry Fees: \$175 per person

*******Limit: 120 Golfers *******

*******Ladies Welcome*******

Sponsorship: \$350 (Hole sign & dinner table advertisement)

Exhibitors: Sponsors will be eligible to get a spot on one of the tees, or in prominent, high-traffic location - at the Walden on Lake Conroe Golf Course during the event, an opportunity for you to interact with participants.

Includes:		Awards
Breakfast Tacos		1 st Place \$100 per person
Donuts & Coffee		2 nd Place \$75 per person
Range Balls		3 rd Place \$50 per person
Green Fees		
Drinks & Snacks		4 Closest To Hole - \$150 each
Cart		Silent Auction
Dinner & Awards		Hole in One on hole #6 \$10,000 worth of Dental work

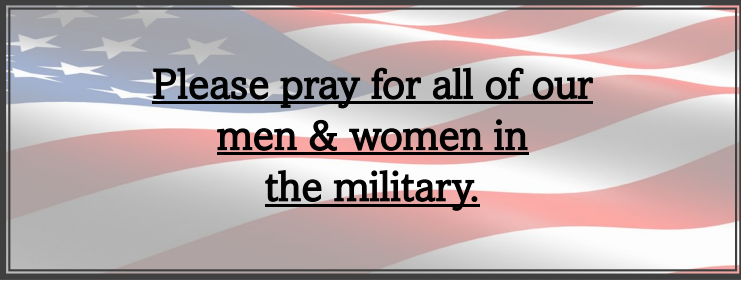
All proceeds support the charity efforts of Saint Mary's Men's Club

Checks payable to: Saint Mary's Men's Club

Mail checks/entry forms to: Eric Gensheimer, 706 The Cliffs Ct. Montgomery, TX 77356

(ericg@tamericgroup.com, 713-416-5280)

For Inquiries - Call/Text/email : Charlie Parada @ 832-594-4603 or
(cparada68493@gmail.com)



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOANER PROGRAM


St. Mary's has a loaner program for anyone in need of durable medical Equipment (DME).

For equipment availability, and to set up a pick up time please contact the office at 936-894-2223.



FORMED: Dive into the treasures of the Church, from daily reflections to small group studies, all designed to nourish your faith journey. To sign up or sign in go to <https://formed.org/signup>


SUNDAY FUNDAY



Children of all ages - join in the FUN during **SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP** in the corner of the **HALL EVERY SUNDAY** after every Mass. Fun things to **PLAY** with and **FRIENDS** to meet. Let's enjoy our **CATHOLIC FAITH** together!

AA MEETINGS:

Every Monday evening @ 8 p.m. in St. Mary's Kelly House (KH)



Volunteers Needed

If you are new to our Parish or have been thinking about getting involved with one of our many Church Organizations or Ministries, please refer to the front page of the bulletin. You will find a list with the contact information of the person that can get you signed up. If you don't see what you are looking for please ask. We always need helping hands!!

St. Mary's Cemetery News

We would like to clarify who can be buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. As a private cemetery only actively supporting registered members of St. Mary (minimum of a year) qualify to purchase a plot or niche. For parishioners who meet these guidelines, the current price of a plot or niche is \$1,200. Plots can be stacked burials and niches will hold 2 urns. Non-parishioners who wish to be buried at St. Mary, must have immediate family members who are already buried in the cemetery, or who are active members who have already reserved their plot/niche. The non-parishioner rate is currently \$4,000 for a plot or niche.

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month . . .

... It began when a report about abused and neglected children caught the attention of President Ronald Reagan in 1983. Sadly, since that first Child Abuse Prevention Month, the number of abused victims has grown from half a million children to over six million new reports of abuse along with 1600 child abuse related deaths annually. One is too many.

On behalf of the Grimes County Child Welfare Board (GCCWB), I am requesting your participation in recognizing the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sunday, April 26, 2026, as National Blue Ribbon Sunday Day of Prayer. National Blue-Ribbon Sunday is the day churches across our nation take a moment to pray for the victims of child abuse and pray for those who rescue them. The Grimes County Child Welfare Board takes this opportunity each year to remind all of you of the ongoing need for prayer, support, and action to help us address the often critical needs of the vulnerable, abused, and neglected children in our community as well as the families and individuals who work to assist them.

Thank You,

Gail Sowell, Treasurer - Grimes County Child Welfare Board
David Dobyanski, Member - Grimes County Child Welfare Board

To report suspected abuse of a minor (person under 18 years of age): Contact the "Child Protective Services" CPS of the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services:

Baby Bottle Blessings Supports the Gabriel Project Ministry

The **Gabriel Project** provides vital support for pregnant women facing difficult circumstances during a time that can be incredibly vulnerable. Your generosity makes a significant difference in the lives of young mothers and babies within our church and our community.



On **May 2nd and 3rd**, please stop by the hall or entryway of the church to pick up a baby bottle bank. You can fill it with spare change, bills, or even checks. Then, simply return the bottle—no matter how full—by the following Sunday.



Your support will directly help mothers in need and offer them hope and practical assistance. Thank you for being a part of this important ministry! If you have any questions, please contact Amy Schnell at 904-556-3486.

The Gabriel Project is the pro-life apostolate offering assistance to a woman and her family during and after her pregnancy. We offer the following to ALL parishioners and those in the surrounding community:



- Maternity clothing
- Baby & Infant clothing from size 0 thru 2T
- Diapers/wipes/toiletries
- Crib/car seat/toys/other baby needs

We have a **well-stocked storage room** of new and very gently used items **waiting to be gifted** to our parish families and those in the area who are pregnant or have little ones!

Contact Amy Schnell 904.556.3486 to set up a time to pick up the items needed or to visit with us for any special needs.

The GABRIEL PROJECT will accept your BABY/TODDLER items (clothes, car seats, infant toys, etc.). Drop off on the porch of THE GABRIEL STORAGE ROOM or contact Amy Schnell for assistance.

St. Vincent de Paul Society:



During this period of Lenten Renewal, we encourage a commitment to the values of faith, hope, and compassion. It is vital that we share our resources and support with those in our community facing poverty, illness, or hardship.

Across our area, many families and individuals rely on the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) for assistance during financial challenges. In 2025, our conference responded to 766 requests for support. These situations range from providing food and encouragement to assisting with complex issues such as rent, utilities, transportation, and navigating government agencies. SVdP offers immediate, compassionate help tailored to individual needs.

We sincerely appreciate the ongoing generosity of our Parish. Your donations and continued commitment to our pantry allow us to serve those who need it most in our community. Thank you for your meaningful contributions and for fostering an environment of care and support.

Everette Johnson

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 28 at 10:00 am in SM Parish Hall.

**If you or anyone you know is in need of assistance from the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call:
(936) 894-2362**

ST. MARY'S MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club will be praying that everyone has a blessed Lenten Season. If you are looking for something to add, we would like to invite you out for the Stations of the Cross. Dates and times will be in the bulletin. Also, any men in the parish who hasn't come to a Men's Club meeting we would love to invite you out on the 3rd Tuesday of each month @ 6pm in the hall.

**Monthly dinner & meeting on Tuesday, April 21
at 6:00pm in St. Mary's Parish Hall.**

St. Mary's Men's Club Blood Drive & Breakfast
Sunday, May 24 @ 8:00am - 1:30pm
SM Parish Hall

Please make plans to donate. If you are unable to, please encourage a friend or family member to do so.



The new start date for the Griefshare Program will be Monday, April 13, 2026, after our short delay.

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to gathering together for support and healing for those grieving the loss of a loved one.

Please contact Pam Milek
(281) 686-7552
pemmil@aol.com


Rowan's Prayer

*One day God will Bring us back together,
United with your child, you'll cry no more.
Till then, may we draw strength from each
other, knowing that they wait by Heaven's
door.*

If you have or you know of someone who just experienced a miscarriage, still birth or infant loss or you know someone with a neonatal diagnosis.



Contact Bonnie Haytcher
by calling
941-302-6310,

* **ST. MARY'S ALTAR SOCIETY** *
* MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! *
* **Tuesday, April 14 at 10:00am** *
* **In the parish hall.** *
* Come and check us out! *
*  *

ST. JOSEPH'S ALTAR SOCIETY

**Meeting in the parish hall on
April 7 at 6:00pm**

**Anyone who is not currently a member of the
Altar Society, but would like to be, please
plan on attending.**

The Montgomery County Women's Center is an outreach of the St. Mary's Altar Society.

The Center offers support to women and families experiencing difficult circumstances with domestic violence.

The current needs are:



- Detergent
- Baby monitors
- Leggings- all sizes (women)
- T-shirts- all sizes (women)
- Wash clothes
- Midol
- Sugar

Please place your donations in the baskets provided in the church and hall.

Thank You from the Women's Center for all of your donations.
For more information about the Women's Center go to <https://mcwctx.org>

Quinceañera

The celebration of a young lady's transition from childhood to adolescence. It begins with the celebration of a Mass of Thanksgiving for the gift of life and asking for a blessing from God for the coming years. It is an opportunity for family and friends to share in this important celebration. It usually ends with a dinner and/or dance. **Those who are considering having a Quinceañera in the upcoming year are asked to attend an informational meeting.**

The meetings are planned for each January and June before the date of the celebration. Please contact Martha Lucas at (512) 608-3519 or emslucas@yahoo.com for more information.

We must remember that God has no other hands but ours, no other feet but ours, no other mouth but ours. Therefore, God is still going to work miracles of love, miracles of freedom and liberation through people like you and me."

~Blessed Mother Theresa

LITTLE LAMBS PLAYGROUP

Are you looking for a playgroup for your children to get together with others? Moms or Dads, are you looking to connect with other parents and visit while your children play? Homeschool families, are you looking for a few hours of socialization for your children and conversation with adults? If the answer is YES, then come and join us this month in the hall at St. Mary's from 9-11am on Friday, April 10.



ST. MARY'S GUARDIAN ANGELS SENIOR GROUP NEWS

Meeting on Tuesday, April 7 @ 10:00am Kelly House.

Game Day Tuesday, April 21 @ 10:00am to 2:00pm in SM parish hall.

Please bring a dessert or side dish to share.

The Domino Club will play 42 on (April 15, 22, 29) Tuesdays @ 11:00am in the Family Life Center Kitchen. **We are looking for more players.** Please bring a dish to share.

Senior Day: April 9th at Montgomery County Fairgrounds (Lone Star Convention Center) 9055 Airport Rd, Conroe, TX. Starts at 9 am- Free Admission/Parking, Bingo, lunch, and live music & dancing. Come out and join us at the SM/SJ tables.

JOIN THE STITCHIN' SISTERS



Are you interested in bringing back a lost art?

Are you interested in having a good time with a great group of ladies?

Think about joining the Stitchin' Sisters. Hand quilting seems to be a lost art that we are trying to keep alive. We are a group of ladies that hand quilt three donation quilts a year. One for the Plantersville Fire Department Auction, one for St. Joseph's Bazaar Auction and one for St. Mary's Bazaar Auction.

If time permits between those quilts, we will quilt a member's quilt for a nominal fee. If you do not know how to quilt, we will do our best to help you out. We all have opinions! We can show you how to put up a quilt on a frame, how to mark it, how to quilt it, and how to finish it.

We meet every Wednesday from 9:30 to 2:00 at the St. Joseph Hall. Bring your own lunch.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

For more info, Juli Murphy: at 936-206-0677 or email julimurphy1988@gmail.com.

April Music Ministry Announcements

Adult Choir

Celebrate the joy of Easter! Join us to prepare uplifting music for the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil) and Easter Season Masses. Rehearsals: Wednesdays 6:30–8:00pm in the church. Sing at 8:30am & 10:00am Sunday Masses. Ages 15+, no audition required - new voices welcome to proclaim the Resurrection!



Cantors

Lead our parish in joyful Easter praise and solemn Triduum liturgies! Rehearsals: Wednesdays 6:00–6:30pm in the church. Flexible Mass assignments, with extra preparation for Holy Week. All levels welcome - your voice helps us sing Alleluia anew!

Children's Choir

Fill our parish with joyful Easter voices! Ages 6–15. Rehearsals: Wednesdays 5:30–6:30pm in the music room (before CCE). Sing at 11:30am Mass & special celebrations. New members encouraged - let your child share in the Easter triumph!

Resurrection Choir

Our Resurrection Choir continues to bring hope and comfort at parish funerals with hymns of eternal life. Flexible rehearsals/training provided. If you feel called to minister through music during times of loss, join us - contact the music director!

Music ministry shines brightest during the Triduum and Easter Season - proclaiming Christ's victory over death. Contact the music director to join or learn more - your gifts are needed to make this Easter resound with joy!

Request for SVdP Food Pantry Donations

Lent is a season of prayer. It is a time for Catholics to prepare their hearts for Easter through increased prayer, penance, and charity. As we walk down our Lenten path, We invite you to join us in the spirit of compassion and generosity by donating non-perishable food items to our local St Vincent de Paul, food pantry. As stewards of God's love, your thoughtful gifts help to nourish and uplift our neighbors in need, reflecting the grace and kindness that faith inspires within us all.

Our most needed items include **canned fruit, canned chicken/tuna, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, pancake syrup, mac and cheese, hamburger helper and powdered milk.** Please ensure all donations are unopened and within their expiration dates, so that we may serve others with dignity and care. Donations may be dropped off in the back of the church.

We are grateful for your continuous donations of food; they have been a true blessing to our community.

Peace and grace to you,

The St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Team

RUMMAGE NEWS:

Every year the St. Mary's rummage sale collects very gently used items, sorts, prices and finally holds a giant one-day sale on the first Saturday in November. **We rely strictly on donations from our parishioners.** Every year, this parish is generous beyond measure. This year, we ask you to search your homes, garages, closets, attics, and storage lockers for items to contribute. The rummage barn will accept your donations every Wednesday from 8am-noon. Or, you can find carts under the small pavilion 24 hours a day, to leave your donations. We need your donations to make this another amazing year.



If you have a furniture pick up, contact Lauren Twining at 281-813-5355.

Faith Formation & Children's Sacraments

We're in our last month of CCE already! The schedule is as follows:

Sundays: April 12 & 19

Wednesdays: April 15 & 22

Our End of Year Festival for CCE families will be April 29 from 6-8pm. Please RSVP.

Thank you for a wonderful year!



Infant Baptism Information

Interested in infant baptism at St. Mary? Join us for an in-person information session where we will discuss requirements, parent and godparent roles and responsibilities, the Rite, and Q&A.

At least one parent is required to attend an Information Session, and godparents are encouraged to attend. Information Sessions will be held at 1:00pm in the Family Life Center on the following Sundays:

May 3, 2026
August 2, 2026
October 4, 2026
November 1, 2026



We look forward to serving you and your family in preparation for this blessed sacrament. Please send us an email if you plan on attending -

baptism@stmaryandjoseph.org

Young Catholic Married Couples (YCMC)

Young Catholic Married Couples (ages 21-49)

Meeting on Saturday, April 25 @ 6:00pm in the Family Life Center Kitchen.

Contact Michael Tann with any questions: 936-306-2342 or email michaelj_tann@hotmail.com.



ST. MARY
Catholic Church

**CAMPAIGN PLANNING STUDY
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



My Dear Friends in Christ,

In the March edition of “*And Now A Word From Your Pastor*,” I shared updated plans for our new church and addressed several concerns raised during the planning study. As promised, I now share a summary of the study results and the recommendations of the Steier Group.

Based on what we heard and learned, the leadership team and I believe St. Mary’s should move forward with a campaign. We are currently working with the archdiocese to receive final approval for both the campaign and the construction project.

Please join me in asking our Blessed Mother, Mary, to intercede for us, that we may faithfully continue building God’s kingdom in our parish for the honor of God and the service of His people.

Fr. Ed

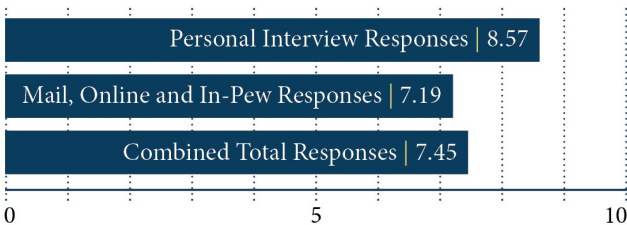


STUDY PARTICIPANTS

76 Personal interview participants | **329** Mail, online and in-pew survey participants | **25.2%** Total participation (*active parishioners*)



PRIORITY OF RESPONDENTS



Overall Observations

- Fr. Ed is deeply respected, and parishioners widely credit his leadership for the parish’s vitality and growth.
- St. Mary’s benefits from an extraordinary culture of volunteerism. Parishioners generously share their time, talent, and resources.
- The existing “painted” church is regarded as a Texas treasure. Its beauty, intimacy, country setting and modest seating capacity create a uniquely welcoming atmosphere. The broader parish campus is exceptionally well maintained and thoughtfully laid out.

- These strengths often lead first-time visitors to say, “We’re home.”
- With more than 1,000 weekend Mass attendees, there is an increasing strain on clergy and the current church. Most parishioners recognize the need for a larger sanctuary, even as they remain deeply attached to the existing church.

(over)



KEY STATISTICAL FINDINGS



91% of respondents will make a personal gift to the campaign, *including 92% of those personally interviewed.*



90 respondents indicated they would serve in a leadership position.



FUNDRAISING POTENTIAL

- Based on the positive results of the planning study, the Steier Group recommends that St. Mary Catholic Church immediately moves forward into the preparation phase of a 30-week campaign, beginning the week of March 2, 2026.
- The Steier Group projects that St. Mary's will raise **\$8,000,000 to \$12,000,000** over the three-year campaign by using the firm's recommended timeframe and approach.



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Finalize the campaign goals based on the parish's long-range planning, responses in the planning study and the projected fundraising potential.
- Consider a tiered approach to the campaign to recognize fundraising milestones and inspire parishioners to generously support this exciting effort.
- Work with the parish architect to finalize the plan for the proposed construction.
- Enlist a strong campaign leadership team to assist in the strategy and implementation of the campaign and, along with Fr. Ed, meet with prospective major donors.
- Approach the individuals who self-identified as volunteers to ask for their participation with campaign activities. Secure enough volunteers to personally visit with 400+ households.
- Develop naming opportunities and donor recognition levels that inspire prospective donors to consider larger gifts to the campaign. This will also serve as recognition and celebration of the generous support to this effort.
- Implement a strategy that involves securing the largest gifts early to encourage other parishioners to give.
- Inform and encourage donors to consider tax efficient giving methods, such as:
 - o Charitable stock swap
 - o Donor advised funds (DAF)
 - o Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) or Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)
 - o Bunching charitable gifts



"GOD'S LOVE DOES NOT IMPOSE BURDENS UPON US THAT WE CANNOT CARRY,
NOR MAKE DEMANDS OF US THAT WE CANNOT FULFILL.
FOR WHATEVER HE ASKS OF US, HE PROVIDES THE HELP THAT IS NEEDED."

St. John Paul II

April 2026

Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 (SM)
 Sunday: 7:30 (SJ)
 7:00, 8:30, 10:00am & 11:30am (SM)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			*9:00am – Anointing Mass *10am-noon & 5pm-6pm – Confessions *9:30am – Stitchin’ Sisters -SJ Hall	*7:00pm – Celebration of the Lord’s Passion Mass Holy Thursday Parish Office Closes @ noon	*3:00pm – Good Friday Service *7:00pm – Stations of the Cross – SJ <i>Holy Land Collection</i> Parish Office Closed	*8:00pm – Easter Vigil (reception to follow) Holy Saturday
5			8	9	10	11
Easter Sunday Masses SM – 6:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am SJ – 7:30am <i>Easter Gift</i>	NO MASS *8:00pm – AA Mtg. – KH Parish Office Closed	*9:00am – Mass – SM *10:00am – Guardian Angels Mtg. – KH *No Domino Club *6:00pm – SJ Altar Society – SJ Hall	*9:00am – Mass *9:30am – Stitchin’ Sisters – SJ Hall	*9:00am – Mass	NO MASS 9:00am – 11:00 am – Little Lambs Playgroup – SM Hall	*5:00pm – Mass
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Regular Mass Schedule *10:00am – CCE – FLC – SM	*9:00am – Mass *10:00am-noon – Grief-Share – KH *8:00pm – AA Mtg. - KH	*9:00am - Mass *10:00am – SM Altar Society – SM Hall *11:00am – Domino Club – FLC - SM	*No Mass *8am - noon - Rummage Barn *9:30am – Stitchin’ Sisters – SJ Hall *6:45pm – CCE – FLC – SM	*9:00am - Mass	NO MASS	*5:00pm – Mass
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Regular Mass Schedule *10:00am – CCE – FLC – SM	*9:00am – Mass *10:00am-noon – Grief-Share – KH *8:00pm – AA Mtg. - KH	9:00am - Mass *10:00am – GA - Game Day – SM Hall *11:00am – Domino Club – FLC – SM 6:00pm – SM Men’s Club Dinner & Mtg. – SM Hall	*No Mass *8am - noon - Rummage Barn *9:30am – Stitchin’ Sisters – SJ Hall *6:45pm – CCE – FLC – SM	*9:00am - Mass	NO MASS	*5:00pm – Mass *6:00pm – YCMC Mtg – FLC Kitchen – SM <i>Home Missions Collection</i>
26	27	28	29	30		
Regular Mass Schedule <i>Home Missions Collection</i>	*9:00am – Mass *SM Men’s Club Golf Tournament – Walden Golf Club *10:00am-noon - Griefshare *8:00pm – AA Mtg. - KH	*9:00am - Mass *10:00am - St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. – SM Hall	*9:00am - Mass *8am - noon - Rummage Barn *9:30am – Stitchin’ Sisters – SJ Hall *6:00pm – Last Class Day – CCE – Party	*9:00am - Mass		